

Bed Bugs in the Community

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What are they?

- Parasites related to Lice
- Reddish-brown, oval-shaped, flattened insects about the size of a tick
- Non-disease vectors
- Feed off the blood of humans





History

- Many references to them in historical literature
 - “Red Coat Bugs”
- Widely eradicated in *developed* countries after the use of DDT and other toxic pesticides
- Resurgence due to restriction of such chemicals and ease of travel

Where are they found?

- Apartments, homes, shelters, hotels, dormitories, laundromats, etc.
- Live in cracks or crevices where people sit or sleep for long periods of time



Who Can Get Bitten?



Everyone
regardless of age,
sanitation or class!

How Are They Detected?

- Blood-stained Smears on Bedding, Walls, Curtains
- Usually Only Come Out at Night
- Hiding in Picture Frames, Bedding, Window Frames, Carpets or Walls







What do the Bites Look Like?

- Relatively Painless
- Reddish
- Raised
- Itchy



Prevention and Control

The background of the slide is a dark maroon color. It features several thick, wavy, and somewhat chaotic lines in a slightly lighter shade of maroon and black, creating a layered, abstract effect. The lines flow across the frame, some curving upwards and others downwards, giving the background a sense of movement and depth.

Special Precautions

- Furniture or Bedding on the Side of the Road or at Trash Collection Sites
- Used Furniture or Bedding
- Community Laundromats
- Furnished Apartments
- Hotels and Motels





What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

- Encourage them to contact the property owner
 - The sooner you address the problem the better chance you have to successfully eliminate it
- Contact the local health officer and/or code enforcement official to make an official complaint
 - Depends on local ordinances and State codes/RSA's

What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

- Advise them to avoid using over-the-counter pesticides (such as 'Raid') especially in areas occupied by children/infants or people with respiratory disorders
 - Not effective
 - Misuse and toxicity
- Contact a licensed Pest Control Operator (PCO)
 - Ask for references
 - Have they been successful in treating them

What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

- Tenants need to work together with property owners and PCO's!!!!
 - Proper treatment preparation
 - Laundering
 - Vacuuming
 - Bed covers
 - Removal of untreatable items
 - Eliminating use of unchecked used furniture etc.

What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

- Key Facts
 - Successful eradication may require multiple chemical/heat treatments
 - Ongoing monitoring is essential
 - One “bad” tenant in a multi-family will ruin the effort
 - Need to provide tenants with easy to use instructions and resources to handle their end of the bargain.....

Multi-Agency Pest Control Effort

- Langdon Mill Campaign
 - 20 unit apartment building
 - 50 residents
 - Relocated for 2 weeks
 - Ongoing education and surveillance
- Spring/Summer/Fall 2009 and Ongoing

Who was Involved? Part 1

- Property Owner
- Community Organizers
 - Granite State Organizing Project
 - American Friends Service Committee
- Local Government
 - Manchester Health, Public Works, Building and School Departments, and Mayor's Office
- Academic Institutions
 - St. Anselm College

Who was Involved? Part 2

- Faith Based Organizations
 - Manchester Church of God
- Community Advocacy Groups
 - Greater Manchester Association of Social Service Agencies (GMASA)
 - United Way
- Local Businesses
 - Wal Mart

Lessons Learned

- Waiting too long makes an infestation impossible to completely eradicate
 - Active surveillance continues
 - Quick response to new sightings
- Must be a carefully coordinated effort
 - Must have the support of the property owner and ALL tenants
 - Pick up of infested materials must be timely
- Education and ongoing assessments are a must

Lessons Learned

- Must identify barriers to success
 - Languages and Literacy
 - \$\$\$
 - New or “gently used” replacement items
 - Laundry
 - Relocation
 - New Tenants
 - Reducing the “stigma” of reporting

Now What...

- Bedbug Policy Task Force
 - Policy Change
 - Reducing risk factors
 - Curbside bedding/furniture pick-up
 - Addressing areas of concern
 - Used furniture and clothing operations
 - Increase funding to treat/support treatment
 - Public Education
 - Increase access to educational materials
 - Reduce stigma

Referral Information

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